

(b) the number of applications sanctioned during the last three years, till date in Tamil Nadu;

(c) the number of applications pending for sanction of such booths in the State, district-wise; and

(d) the time by which the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) STD, PCOs are allotted by the STD PCO allotment committee constituted one for each SSA consisting of 2 official members and non-official members one each nominated by sitting members of Parliament representing the SSA Educational qualification is 8th pass for rural areas and Matric/High School pass for urban areas. Preference is given to the following categories of persons:

1. Handicapped including blind persons.
2. SC/ST applicants.
3. Ex-Servicemen & War Widows.
4. Retired DoT employees or their dependents.
5. Dependents of Freedom Fighters.
6. Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

(b) Number of applications sanctioned during the last three years in Tamil Nadu Circle are as under:

1993-94	-	1070
1994-95	-	1001
1995-96	-	1297

During 1996-97, 944 STD PCOs have been provided in Tamil Nadu Circle till 31.1.1997.

(c) The number of applications pending in Tamil Nadu Circle are as under:

S.No	Name of Telecom District	Applications pending
1.	Madurai	1709
2.	Salem	2391
3.	Thanjavur	509
4.	Cuddalore	3115
5.	Dharmapuri	792
6.	Chengalpattu	874
7.	Other Districts	NIL

(d) STD PCO allotment committees have been reconstituted recently. Applicants cleared by the Committees are expected to be provided STD PCO by the end of March, 1997.

[Translation]

Licence for Use of Dish Antenna

3032. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently given directions regarding licence for the use of the use of Dish Antenna;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to give concession in far flung rural areas and village Panchayats for the use of Dish Antenna;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the details of the liberalisation policy of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) No licence is required for the reception of present satellite channels. However, to prevent unregulated growth of direct-to-home services which are yet to start in the country, a notification has been issued under which reception of direct-to-home services requires a licence.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Setting up of Low Budget Hotels

3033. SHRI HARADHAN ROY :
SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up low budget hotels near important Railway Stations and important tourist places;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering to set up such hotels at Darjeeling, Kurseong, Kalimpong, Siliguri, Guwahati, Agartala, Imphal, Shillong and other tourist places of North Bengal, Eastern and N.E. States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) The proposal is in a conceptual stage.